

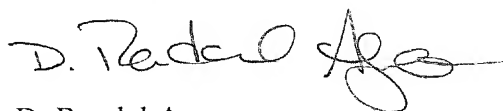
REMARKS

Applicant submits the present *Amendment After Final* in response to the Final Action mailed May 27, 2009. Applicant sincerely appreciates the thorough review of the present application, as well as the allowance of Claims 1-18 and 20-23. In response to the Final Action, Applicant has amended Claim 24 to include the recitations of Claim 26 (reworded to enhance the clarity of Claim 24), and has cancelled Claim 26. Claim 27 has also been amended so that it conforms to the wording of Claim 24 from which it depends.

As discussed in the Response to Arguments section of the Final Action, Claim 24 was rejected because it did not recite comparing the first distance to the second distance to establish direct link protocol communications if the first distance was less than the second distance, as was recited in allowed Claims 1 and 16. (Final Action at 2). Dependent Claim 26, however, adds this recitation to Claim 24. As discussed in detail in Applicant's prior response, the cited portion of U.S. Patent No. 5,666,661 to Grube et al. ("Grube"), namely Col. 3, lines 1-38, does not disclose or suggest establishing direct link protocol communications if a first distance (the distance between a first station and a second station) is less than a second distance (the distance between the first station and an access point) as is recited in amended Claim 24 as presented above. Instead, the cited portion of Grube discusses comparing **a distance between two communication units 102 and 103 and a predetermined threshold**. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 24, as amended herein, is now in condition for allowance. Claims 25 and 27 are in condition for allowance at least per their dependency on Claim 24.

Entry of the present *Amendment After Final* is appropriate both because Applicant has merely incorporated subject matter from a dependent claim into an independent claim and because the amendment to Claim 24 clearly places all remaining claims into condition for allowance based on the comments in the Final Action. *See* MPEP § 706.07(f)(C)(1). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present *Amendment After Final* and passing of the present application to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



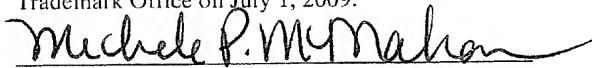
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Michele McMahan